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ANNUAL REPORT
OF THE
BUILDING DEPARTMENT
FOR THE YEAR 1946

Boston, May 1, 1947.

HON. JAMES M. CURLEY,
Mayor of the City of Boston.

SIR:

In accordance with the provisions of Section 115, Chapter 479 of the Acts of 1938, as amended, I submit herewith a brief report of the activities of the Building Department during the year 1946.

JOHN J. MAHONEY,
Building Commissioner.

Statement of Building Operations in the City of Boston for the Year Ending December 31, 1946.

	1946.		1945.		1944.		1943.		1942.	
	Num- ber.	Cost.	Num- ber.	Cost.	Num- ber.	Cost.	Num- ber.	Cost.	Num- ber.	Cost.
Type I.....	69	\$28,061,650	36	\$1,915,364	13	\$280,226	52	\$5,292,690	57	\$5,614,090
Type II.....	5	37,900	1	6,000	—	—	—	—	—	—
Type III.....	1	5,000	1	30,000	—	—	—	—	—	—
Type IV.....	160	2,781,490	49	370,550	28	195,050	37	309,936	38	297,475
Type V.....	72	684,360	45	359,825	24	43,355	38	81,509	57	423,695
Type VI.....	536	4,321,718	86	323,230	22	134,785	77	160,130	249	884,090
Total new construction.....	843	\$35,892,118	218	\$3,004,969	87	\$653,516	204	\$5,844,265	401	\$7,219,950
Alterations, repairs, etc.....	7,711	10,494,471	5,663	6,636,175	4,443	3,613,847	3,819	2,991,265	3,135	2,521,944
Total structural construction.....	8,554	\$46,386,589	5,881	\$9,641,144	4,530	\$4,267,363	4,023	\$8,835,530	3,536	\$9,841,894
Plumbing.....	2,754	\$1,478,347	1,769	\$736,062	1,407	\$403,030	1,239	\$416,858	1,939	\$618,466
Gas fitting.....	6,156	507,932	3,263	213,983	3,325	207,563	2,872	213,665	3,959	639,454
Heaters, ovens, engines, etc.....	396	352,647	166	188,409	119	95,441	105	59,736	244	100,653
Elevators, new freight.....	67	145,359	28	65,466	25	102,021	21	48,600	28	62,510
Elevators, new passenger.....	37	432,004	21	120,110	7	23,900	2	3,335	14	273,200
Elevators, alterations, freight.....	221	107,766	170	53,268	203	71,537	180	26,332	161	53,228
Elevators, alterations, passenger.....	313	179,546	231	67,085	269	60,842	288	75,418	299	69,712
Signs, projections, etc.....	706	206,643	251	54,123	152	21,513	114	12,416	177	23,736
Fire escapes.....	377	128,637	105	37,908	81	25,600	194	43,059	51	10,085
Take-downs, wood.....	217	67,247	209	60,109	240	85,321	175	44,297	510	138,859
Take-downs, brick, etc.....	115	62,754	100	98,120	90	81,284	58	49,271	98	38,509
Sprinklers.....	100	207,839	57	88,738	43	67,428	26	48,784	32	51,230
Excavations.....	15	35,450	1	400	3	1,500	2	1,900	2	300
Use of premises.....	59	—	37	—	31	—	14	—	15	—
Totals.....	11,533	\$3,914,171	6,308	\$1,780,381	5,995	\$1,247,680	5,211	\$1,043,671	7,549	\$2,080,002
Grand total all work.....	20,087	\$50,300,760	12,189	\$11,421,525	10,525	\$5,515,043	9,234	\$9,879,201	11,085	\$11,921,986
Department revenue.....	.....	\$81,920 25	.....	\$49,414 00	.....	\$35,488 75	.....	\$30,809 75	.....	\$34,409 50

FIRE RECORD, 1946

Number of fires in sprinklered buildings	208
Number controlled before sprinklers operated . .	64
Number controlled by one sprinkler	82
Number controlled by two sprinklers	39
Number controlled by more than two sprinklers .	26

SUMMARY OF EXAMINATIONS AND REPORTS, 1946

New buildings	3,065
Alterations	15,100
Existing buildings	1,654
Boilers, engines, etc.	69
Plumbing, new	692
Plumbing, alterations	9,940
Plumbing, tests	878
Gas fitting, new	1,135
Gas fitting, alterations	14,520
Gas fitting, tests	5,808
Egress	34,076
Elevators	14,400
Sprinklers	2,867
Standpipes	80
Tests of both	1,758
Zoning	4,797
Plans	2,325
Special form applications	6,691
Fires	828
Gas asphyxiations	16
Building accidents	10
Complaints made	1,066
Finals	1,503
Communications acted on	1,900
Special detail	879
Complaints referred to Law Department for prosecution	161

GENERAL STATISTICS

On January 1, 1946, there were (estimated) in the City of Boston:

Brick and other fire-resistive buildings	45,060	
Erected during year	306	
	<hr/>	45,366
Taken down during year	115	
Totally destroyed by fire	0	
	<hr/>	115
Existing on January 1, 1947		45,251

Wood buildings	92,487	
Erected during year	537	
	<hr/>	93,024
Taken down during year	217	
Totally destroyed by fire	0	217
	<hr/>	<hr/>
Existing on January 1, 1947		92,807
		<hr/>
Total number (estimated) of Buildings in Boston on January 1, 1947		<u>138,058</u>

NUMBER OF DOCUMENTS WITH FEES RECEIVED BY
THE BUILDING DEPARTMENT—JANUARY 1 TO
DECEMBER 31, 1946

New construction	563	\$18,716 00
Alterations	9672	29,961 00
Elevator annual tests	1784	6,653 00
Amendments	340	1,700 00
Sprinklers	120	608 00
Night elevator tests	44	460 00
Foundation, only	19	90 00
Board of Appeal	255	3,285 00
Boilers, etc.	411	411 00
Plumbing, old	2552	3,618 50
Plumbing, new	202	1,588 00
Gas fitting, old	6132	5,694 25
Gas fitting, new	36	57 00
Elevator operator licenses, new	2163	2,139 00
Elevator operator licenses, renewal	4605	2,243 00
Master gas fitter, new	46	92 00
Master gas fitter, renewal	509	1,018 00
Journeyman gas fitter, new	49	24 50
Journeyman gas fitter, renewal	620	310 00
Inspection of plans	259	514 00
Certified copies	30	42 00
Building law books	988	2,470 00
Petit law books		226 00
	<hr/>	<hr/>
	31,399	\$81,920 25
	<hr/>	<hr/>

FINANCIAL REPORT, 1946 — EXPENDITURES

A. PERSONAL SERVICE:

1. Permanent employees	\$214,476 31
2. Temporary employees	48,388 13
4. Other departmental work	200 00

B. SERVICE OTHER THAN PERSONAL:

1. Printing and binding	688 63
4. Transportation of persons	5,354 45
12. Bond and insurance premiums	12 50
14. Motor vehicle repairs and care	226 20
29. Stenography and copying	150 00
35. Fees, service of venires, etc. . . .	14 50
39. General plant	82 45
42. Miscellaneous	150 00

C. EQUIPMENT:

9. Office	15 75
15. Tires, tubes and accessories	52 69
17. Miscellaneous	14 76

D. SUPPLIES:

1. Office	4,663 78
11. Motor vehicle	141 01
13. Chemicals and disinfectants	2 30
16. Miscellaneous	9 07

E. MATERIALS:

10. Electrical	11 57
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F. SPECIAL ITEMS:

7. Pensions and annuities	4,665 00
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Grand total	<u>\$279,319 13</u>
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Appropriation	<u>\$279,987 57</u>
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Income	<u>\$81,920 25</u>
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Special appropriation	<u>\$111,364 04</u>
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Buildings taken down	82
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Buildings shored	16
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Expenditure	<u>\$46,451 83</u>
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BOARD OF APPEAL

The Board of Appeal, established in accordance with section 117 of chapter 479, Acts of 1938, as amended, in its functioning, may vary the provisions of the Act referred to in specific cases which appear to them not to have been contemplated by this Act although covered by it, or in cases where manifest injustice is done, provided that the decision of the Board in such a case shall be unanimous and shall not conflict with the spirit of any provision of the Act.

The following is a statistical summary of the work of this department for the year 1946:

In re Building Law — chapter 479, Acts of 1938, as amended:

Appeals received	128
Appeals withdrawn	0
Appeals pending	1
Appeals sustained	37
Appeals sustained with proviso	87
Appeals dismissed	9

In re Zoning Law — chapter 488, Acts of 1924, as amended:

Appeals received	157
Appeals withdrawn	13
Appeals pending	2
Appeals sustained	56
Appeals sustained with proviso	58
Appeals dismissed	28

BOARD OF EXAMINERS

The Board of Examiners, established in 1913, acts upon applications of persons desiring to be registered as licensed superintendents on building operations in the City of Boston.

The following is a list of applications acted upon:

	Approved	Rejected	Income
New licenses and reissues	704	357	\$3,520
Renewals	1,724	0	3,448
			<u>\$6,968</u>







